

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC RPRIORITY 1434

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 3264

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR GT BH UK

SUBJECT: BELIZE: AFP REPORTS NEGOTIATIONS FAILED

1. ONLY REPORT IN MORNING PRESS APRIL 28 ON BELIZE NEGOTIATIONS WAS AFP STORY DATELINED NEW ORLEANS WHICH APPEARED IN GRAFICO. STORY OPENED, "CONFERENCE HELD SINCE MONDAY HERE ON THE FUTURE OF BELIZE FAILED ON ENDING TODAY WITHOUT ANY AGREEMENT BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF GREAT BRITAIN, GUATEMALA AND BELIZE, ACCORDING TO OBSERVERS." THIS REPORT UNDERSTANDABLY LED TO BANNER HEADLINE ON FRONT PAGE OF GRAFICO, TALKS ON BELIZE IN NEW ORLEANS FAIL; CONFERENCE ENDED WITHOUT REACHING ANY AGREEMENT BETWEEN GUATEMALA AND GREATBRITAIN."

2. STORY CONTINUED, "THE DELEGATIONS, WHICH MET TODAY (TUESDAY) FOR ONLY AN HOUR DECIDED THAT ANOTHER MEETING WOULD BE HELD BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, AT A DATE NOT YET ESTABLISHED. "BELIZE NEEDS GUATEMALA MORE THAN GUATEMALA NEEDS THAT TERRITORY. THE EXCESSIVE NATIONALISM OF THE INHABITANTS OF BELIZE PREVENTS THE CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENT," DECLARED THE GUATEMALAN DELEGATE, LUIS AYCINENA, AT THE END OF TODAY'S MEETING. AFTER POINTING OUT THAT HIS

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COUNTRY DESIRES TO MAINTAIN "SOME TIES' WITH BELIZE,

AYCINENA ADDED THAT GUATEMALA WANTS TO OBTAIN AN AGREEMENT WITH BELIZE THAT WILL GUARANTEE IT ACCESS TO THE SEA."

3. LESS PROMINENT PLAY WAS GIVEN BY GRAFICO AND ALSO NACION TO STATENTS TO REPORTERS HERE BY ACTING FONMIN OBIOLS, DENYING THAT TALKS HAD FAILED INASMUCH AS THEY HAVE JUST BEEN REINITIATED AND STATING THAT GUATEMALAN DELEGATION HAD NEVER INTENDED TO DO MORE THAN RECEIVE BRIGISH PROPOSALS AND BRING THEM BACK TO GUATEMALA FOR STUDY. HE ALSO DENIED THAT INCLUSION OF BELIZEAN REPRESENTATIVES IN TALKS WAS A SETBACK FOR GUATEMALA, INSISTING THAT THEY WERE THERE AS MEMBERS OF UK DELEGATION AND TALKS REMAINED BETWEEN GUATEMALA AND UK.
ANDREWS

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